

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY: IO: MMCNAULL

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R 050044Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 7532

UNCLAS STATE 241579

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 241579 ACTION USUN INFO OUAGADOUGOU 02 NOV 74

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UNCLAS STATE 241579

E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 29TH UNGA - SECOND COMITE - ITEM 46 - ENVIRONMENT

REF: USUN 4599

1. RE DRAFT RES REPORTED REFTTEL, MISSION SHOULD INFORM UPPER VOLTA MISSION THAT US PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON SUPPORT FOR UN PROGRAMS TO SOLVE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF DESERTIFICATION AND RECUPERATION OF LAND LOSS. US FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT ACTION PROPOSED IN DRAFT RES WILL LARGELY DUPLICATE EFFORTS ALREADY INITIATED WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM AND IN PARTICULAR BY UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.
 2. SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED HIGHEST PRIORITY IN UNEP ALREADY, AND UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALREADY INITIATED WORK ON STUDIES PROPOSED IN OPERATIVE PARAS (A) AND (B).
 3. DEPT FURTHERMORE BELIEVES THAT CONFERENCE PROPOSED OPER PARA (C) WOULD DIVERT RESOURCES, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTER-
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NATIONAL, INTO CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, WHEREAS THESE RE-

SOURCES COULD MUCH BETTER BE UTILIZED IF ALLOCATED TO ACTION PROGRAMS OF TYPE UNEP ALREADY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN DESERTIFICATION AREA. IF SPONSORS PERSIST IN PUSHING IDEA OF CONFERENCE, MISSION MAY SUGGEST THAT CONFERENCE SUBJECT BE REVIEWED AT GOVERNING COUNCIL FOURTH SESSION AS TO ITS USEFULNESS AT THAT TIME.

4. US CANNOT SUPPORT UPPER VOLTAN RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT OF DESERTIFICATION UNLESS AMENDED TO URGE THAT UNEP ACCELERATE WORK MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE, INSTEAD OF ESTABLISHING NEW JOINT SECRETARIAT TO UNDERTAKE THESE ACTIONS. SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT UNEP HAS BEEN ASSIGNED OVERALL COORDINATING FUNCTION IN THIS AREA AND IS ALREADY WORKING WITH OTHER UN BODIES ON DESERTIFICATION PROBLEM.

5. IN SUMMARY, US CAN SUPPORT RESOLUTION IF ACTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN ARE REFERRED TO UNEP AND NOT TO A NEW JOINT SECRETARIAT AND IF PROPOSED CONFERENCE IDEA IS DELETED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, AGREEMENT DRAFT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE241579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/SCT: JPTREVITHICK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740317-0093
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741170/aaaachbt.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 4599
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 29TH UNGA - SECOND COMITE - ITEM 46 - ENVIRONMENT
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005